

COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Finsterwalde Airfield

25X1A

EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

18 November to 16 December 1952

DATE OBTAINED

EXPIRED 27 January 1953

REFERENCES

25X1C

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

1. On 10 December 1952, [redacted] aircraft stationed at Finsterwalde airfield were flying. At 2:30 p.m., [redacted]

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2. On 10 December, an AA gun emplacement with six guns was observed west of the westernmost hangars at the field.²

3. The following observations were made at various objects in the town:

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Object 1. On 1 December, a German employee carried out an errand for a Soviet major who was living in Object 1. [redacted] the major was addressed as "commandant" as he was the deputy to the general who was still on leave. Allegedly, the major resided in the same villa of Object 1 as the general.

Object 3. This three-story building is 200 meters long. It appeared to be occupied to capacity as all of its windows were lighted at night on 29 November and 3 December.

Object 5. A truck [redacted] was observed there 25X1 on 20 November. No radio trucks were parked there.

Object 8. It was still vacant and unguarded on 4 December.

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Object 9. On 18 November, [redacted] driver wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was observed in a German motor vehicle repair shop. A mechanic who has been employed in the workshop for several years said that this car was used by the district commander, a major who had his office in Object 9. [redacted] the buildings of Object 9 at nightfall on 30 November and 3 December and determined that: buildings a and b were fully occupied and continuously guarded by two sentries; buildings c and d each had one lighted window upstairs, but the lower sections of buildings could not be observed; building e had two lighted windows upstairs and was not lighted downstairs; buildings f and h were occupied to capacity.³

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All the drivers, except those of trucks [redacted] wore red-bordered black epaulets, wore black-bordered blue epaulets.

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5. At 3:30 a.m. on 3 December, there was no air activity at the field. From 250 to 300 soldiers were cleaning the runway with birch-brooms. Eight canvas-covered Pe-2s were parked along the eastern flying lane. Three additional Pe-2s were observed just north of the second hangar from the east. Nine canvas-covered jet bombers of both types were parked in front of the western hangars.¹
6. Six 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement in the eastern section of the field on both sides of the spur track. The bunkers of the AA gun emplacement were heated. One sentry wearing winter clothes and armed with a submachine gun was observed at each gun. Two wooden 4-wheel tank dummies, each 1 meter long, 60 cm high and 50 cm wide, were observed next to a gun, west of the spur track. Five trucks and an 85-mm AA gun were parked in the fenced-in area north of the building with two towers.²
7. Between 30 November and 14 December, the following supply shipments were observed:

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Date in December	Railroad Cars	Cargo	From
3	1 tank car	265 hectoliters	Velten
	6 gondola cars	coal	Klettwitz
	23 gondola cars	coal	Klettwitz
5	3 boxcars	flour	Cottbus
8	1 tank car	200 hectoliters	Velten
10	1 flatcar	1 tractor	Klotzsche
12	1 tank car	200 hectoliters	Velten
14	3 boxcars	flour	Satzkorn

On 14 December, two of the boxcars were shunted to the airfield and one was shunted to the loading siding of the consumers' bakery which supplied the Soviets.⁵

8. The following observations were made at the field between 5 and 16 December:

5 to 19 December. No air activity was observed at the field. There was a closed cloud base and the weather was mostly hazy or foggy.

10 December. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., flying was practiced by jet bombers two of which circled over the field with extended landing gears. There were no clouds but the visibility was limited to 1,500 meters.

11 December. Air activity was observed as on the preceding day. At 3:20 p.m., a jet bomber was parked just north of the runway and two trucks and a caterpillar tractor stood nearby. It appeared that this jet bomber had made a crash landing. Both ends of the runway were marked by fir-trees about as tall as a man. The same parking type of poles were observed along two lines parallel to the runway, about 100 meters north and south of the runway respectively. In the morning, there were no clouds, about noon, the sky became cloudy, the ceiling being at an altitude of 400 meters. The visibility was limited to 1,000 meters.

12 December. Individual take-offs were made by jet planes until 10 a.m. After 10 a.m., visibility was reduced to 1,000 meters.

13 December. Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., jet bombers with extended landing gears circled over the field. There was an 3/10 overcast, strong wind and a visibility of 2,000 meters.

14 December. Between 3 and 3:30 p.m., eight jet bombers of both types were counted near the western hangars. One twin-engine plane was also observed at the field.

15 and 16 December. There was no air activity although the weather was sunny.¹

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9. On 14 December, five 85-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement on the northern edge of the field. Two tents, including one with a small red flag on the mast, were observed in the emplacement.²

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1. Comment. During the time of observation, Finsterwalde airfield was occupied by two bomber regiments which are believed to be equipped with about 12 IL-28s and at least 15 Pe-2s. Since some of the planes, particularly the Pe-2s, were probably parked in the hangar, source could not observe the total strength of aircraft at the field. Because of the bad weather there was little air activity by individual pilots who practiced on IL-28 planes. The marking of the runway by means of small fir-trees as is reported in paragraph 8 is customary in Russia during the winter.

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2. Comment. The AA gun emplacement west of the westernmost hangar is known. It is occupied by 37-mm AA guns. The AA gun emplacements on the eastern and northern edges of the field have been reported several times.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The numbers are keyed to a town map which was forwarded
as Annex 1 [redacted] 2 A sketch of Object 9, the komendatura,
was forwarded previously. [redacted]

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